

for several decades, and I congratulate him for his lifetime of public service.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. KENNETH WENTS

##### HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2004*

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to a man who served his country with dignity, and lived his life with honor. Mr. Kenneth Wents of Hacienda Heights, California, will always be remembered for his courage and heart.

Mr. Wents led a full and exciting life. Even as a prisoner of war during World War II for forty-two months, he faced extraordinary challenges with determination and optimism.

Mr. Wents touched the lives of many, especially the generous volunteers of the Greater La Puente Valley Meals on Wheels, who valued him and appreciated his warm spirit.

Mr. Speaker, the life of Mr. Kenneth Wents has greatly impacted the lives of many in a positive way. It is my honor to join his family and friends in commemorating his legacy.

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLOWER MOUND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

##### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2004*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, heralded as the first Presbyterian church in Denton County, Flower Mound Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 150th Anniversary. I am proud to congratulate Flower Mound Presbyterian on this great accomplishment.

Flower Mound Presbyterian Church's main priority is to foster a sense of "family" within its membership and, at the same time, open its doors wide to welcome the community. They continue the church's rich legacy of religious service to Flower Mound residents.

The church has lovingly preserved its original furnishings and all of the cherished memories that go with them. Each Sunday, the sanctuary is flooded with music from an old-style piano donated years ago. The original pews still sit in their initial circular arrangement around the lectern which also dates back to the church's beginnings in 1854.

The church remembers its past with numerous photo albums depicting the congregation as it has grown in number and traditions through the years. Images of the church's steeple being constructed provide a visual representation of the changes the church has undergone over time.

The church's white clapboard building, located in the area formerly known as "the Long Prairie," witnessed Flower Mound's growth from a sleepy rural hamlet to a vibrant suburban community. Flower Mound Presbyterian Church will commemorate its 150 years by erecting a historical marker in its cemetery.

Congratulations to the congregation at Flower Mound Presbyterian Church on their anniversary. One hundred and fifty years of worship is a milestone to be celebrated.

#### HONORING THE MARIPOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2004*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mariposa County Courthouse on its 150 years of service to the needs of the community of Mariposa. The courthouse is holding numerous anniversary events throughout 2004 leading up to the actual anniversary.

Founded on September 8, 1850, the courthouse was built on land donated by Mr. John C. Fremont and cost a mere \$9,300 to construct. Throughout the last century and a half, the courthouse underwent several additions, including a clock tower in 1866, its first telephone in 1895, and electric lights in 1907. In 1958, the courthouse was officially recognized as a California State Landmark and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

The court has operated continuously ever since it's opening in 1850, making it the oldest, active courthouse west of the Rocky Mountains. Today, the original clock keeps the residents of Mariposa on time, just as it had done for the last 100 years. In addition, the services of the court have expanded into seven departments, including criminal, family law, small claims and traffic.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate and honor the residents of Mariposa for their preservation and dedication to the Mariposa County Courthouse for the last 150 years. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Mariposa County Courthouse many more years of continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2004*

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on June 8, 2004, during Rollcall votes 229 and 230 I was unavoidably detained. If I had been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall votes 229 and 230.

#### MR. ROBERT ERVIN TAYLOR, IN HONOR OF HIS RETIREMENT

##### HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2004*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Robert Ervin Taylor in honor of his retirement as City Manager of Colonial Heights, Virginia for serving 20 years of dedicated service from 1984 to 2004.

In 1968, Mr. Taylor received his Bachelor of Science in History and Political Science from Appalachian State University. Upon the completion of his Master of Public Administration from the University of Tennessee in 1972, he became the Senior Administrative Analyst in

the Budget Office of the Finance Department for the City of Nashville-Davidson County. From 1973 to 1979, Mr. Taylor served as Assistant to the City Manager and Director of Personnel and Budget for the City of Suffolk, Virginia. He later served five years as City Manager for the City of Red Bank, Tennessee.

As City Manager for Colonial Heights, Mr. Robert Ervin Taylor has been responsible for the implementation of policies adopted by the City Council under the direction of five mayors and 22 council members. In addition, he has been in charge of enforcing all city laws and ordinances, the appointment and supervision of heads of 12 departments, and the preparation and execution of an annual \$38 million operating and \$3.5 million capital improvements budget.

With a penchant for community service and natural leadership, Mr. Taylor has served on several state, local and regional organizations. He has served as chairman of the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority and the South Central Wastewater Authority. Moreover, he was the Treasurer/Secretary of the Appomattox River Water Authority, and was on the Board of Directors for the Crater Planning District Commission and the Colonial Heights Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he served as the President of the Colonial Heights Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Taylor has worked closely with the community to ensure the best quality of care for the citizens of Colonial Heights. He has been instrumental in carrying out the vision that has been set forth for the community; as such, the people have been able to rely on the dedicated and dependable service of Mr. Taylor.

Because of Mr. Taylor's resounding success, and his dedicated years of service the Colonial Heights community has benefited immensely from his leadership. He has consistently demonstrated a remarkable spirit of unity in his relations with other leaders in the community and an equal level of enthusiasm for serving the Colonial Heights area.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Robert Ervin Taylor for his loyal and dedicated service and the many contributions he has made to his community.

#### A TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR CHIEN-JEN CHEN

##### HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 2004*

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to join my many colleagues in offering best wishes to our great friend, Ambassador Chien-Jen Chen of Taiwan as he finishes his tour of duty here in the United States and returns home.

C.J. Chen has a long and distinguished career in public service. A highly-respected academic, he still holds the position of Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Diplomacy at National Chengchi University.

Prior to his appointment as his nation's representative to the United States, Ambassador Chen served in the Legislative Yuan of the Republic of China, rising to the position as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Immediately preceding his current assignment, he served as Taiwan's Foreign Affairs Minister.

I had the opportunity to attend a farewell reception for Ambassador Chen yesterday evening here in the Capitol—an event sponsored by the Majority and Minority Leaders of both the House and Senate. The bipartisan participation in the fond farewell was a great illustration of the wonderful friendships C.J. has nurtured while serving his country here in Washington.

As C.J. prepares to return to Taiwan, I want to offer my thanks to him for his professionalism and his friendship. The people of Taiwan should know that they have been ably served by an outstanding diplomat.

We will miss him and we wish him well.

#### HONORING THE 29TH ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 29th Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) communities, their families and friends.

Since its beginning in 1975, the Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party to a seven-day series of events. This year, the Pride Parade will be held on June 12th and will culminate in a Street Festival on Pennsylvania Avenue, attended by people of all backgrounds from the District and the region. To emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting congressional bills addressed to the human rights of the GLBT community, I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress. I have seen the festival and parade grow bigger and better each year and with it the spread of support of equal rights for this community.

This year's theme of "Pride + Vote = Power" holds special meaning for the citizens of the District of Columbia and its GLBT community in particular. It has been nine years since the District of Columbia lost the first vote we ever won on the floor of the House of Representatives, the delegate vote in the Committee of the Whole. That vote was retracted when the Republicans assumed control of the House. Our city of nearly 600,000 residents, the only jurisdiction in the United States subject to "Taxation Without Representation," is entitled to that vote now and to the full voting representation that has always been our birthright.

American citizens who live in our nation's capital, have fought in every American war, including the present war in Iraq and Afghanistan, are taxed without full representation in the House and do not have any representatives in the Senate. The joy of the Capital Pride Festival contrasts with the lot of GLBT soldiers who have volunteered to protect our country with their lives and must serve in silence and without the open support of their chosen families and communities, neither asking nor telling.

Neither here nor elsewhere has Congress protected sexual orientation from discrimination in our country. Despite increasing reports of violence and physical abuse against Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Ameri-

cans, Congress has not enacted protections against hate crimes. Congress must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Congress must pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Congress must pass the Permanent Partners Immigration Act. And Congress must pass the No Taxation Without Representation Act.

In June we will rejoice in the accomplishments of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community. We will also remember those who live on only in our hearts and prayers. As we gather to celebrate and reflect, we must continue the fight for full democracy in the District of Columbia and full civil rights for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in saluting the 29th Annual Capital Pride Festival, its presenter, Whitman-Walker Clinic, and the sponsors and volunteers whose dedicated and creative energy make the Capital Pride Festival possible.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO WEST- MINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

#### HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Westminster Christian Academy in St. Louis, Missouri for winning the "Foundations of Democracy" unit award in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" 2004 program. The "We the People" program is a competition on the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights in which students are challenged to apply their knowledge of constitutional principles and understanding of historical facts to contemporary situations. The program is designed to promote an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our constitutional democracy.

Westminster Christian Academy is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory school serving grades 7–12 located in St. Louis County. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the individual members of Westminster's team for their outstanding performance in this year's competition: Britney Bennett, Chris Collum, Ryan Dabler, Jessica Degnan, J.D. Gustafson, Gerrod Heise, Nina Hiles, Rebecca Keffler, Angela Ludwinski, Lindsay McClure, Joeana Middleton, Neil Peterson, Katie Poland, Jennifer Reinwart, Amanda Rill, Jennifer Schaffner, Elizabeth Simon, Lily Strand, Steve Vitale, and their teacher, Ken Boesch.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 8, 2004, I was unavoidably detained and thus missed Rollcall No. 229 and No. 230. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall No. 229, expressing the profound regret and sorrow of the House of Represent-

atives on the death of Ronald Wilson Reagan, former President of the United States of America, and "nay" on Rollcall No. 230, on approving the journal.

#### HONORING SALVATORE PUNZO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE- MENT

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to extend my best wishes to my good friend, Salvatore Punzo, as he celebrates his retirement after 35 years in education.

I have often spoke of our Nation's need for talented educators ready to help our children learn and grow. Sal has been just that kind of teacher and administrator. In a career that has spanned over three decades, he has touched the lives of thousands of our young people—helping them to build a strong foundation for their future success. We owe a debt of gratitude to teachers like Sal, who so willingly dedicate themselves to ensuring that our children have access to the best possible education.

Our teachers and school administrators spend many hours with our children, ensuring that they develop the tools and skills they will need as they continue their education and move into adulthood. Sal began his career in education as a teacher with the New Haven Public School system, where he spent the next 16 years in teaching grades three through five. In that time, he developed a strong reputation for his commitment to education and to meeting the needs of his students. After being appointed to a new administrator's mentoring program, he went on to serve as an assistant principal and finally, for nearly two decades, as the Principal of East Rock Magnet School.

After 17 years, Sal will now retire as the Principal of East Rock Magnet School—one of the most successful magnet schools in the State of Connecticut. Under his tenure, East Rock has blossomed—receiving numerous awards and recognitions, including being named a Vanguard School. In fact, just last year, I was honored to join Sal at East Rock to celebrate the success of the Model Laptop Program. This program, funded by one of only five such U.S. Department of Education grants in the country, tests the impact of introducing laptops in third through fifth grade classrooms. The success of East Rock, with this program and so many others, is remarkable and testament to Sal's leadership.

Salvatore Punzo has dedicated a lifetime to making a difference in the lives of children through education. We are so fortunate to have people like him working with our young people. Teacher, administrator, and advocate—he embodies all that an educator should be. I am proud to stand today and join his wife, Carmela; his children Sal and Michael; his five grandchildren, family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating Salvatore Punzo on the occasion of his retirement. My best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.